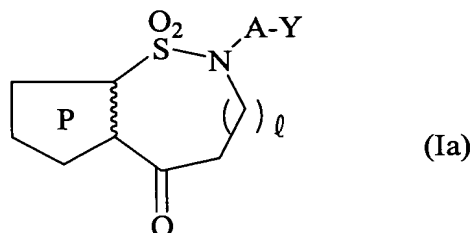


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

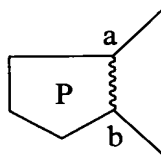
Claims 1-27 (Cancelled)

28 (New): A process for preparing a compound of formula (Ia):

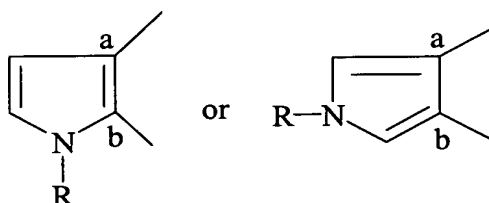


wherein

the ring P is:



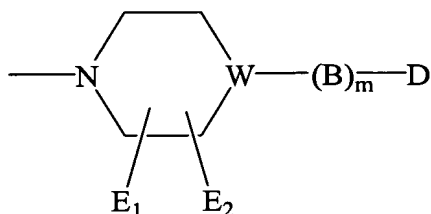
and is a pyrrole ring represented by the following structure:



in which R is an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkyl-alkyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group;

A is a substituted or unsubstituted alkylene group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenylene group or a substituted or unsubstituted alkynylene group;

Y is a group having the following formula:



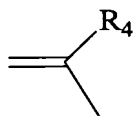
in which

E_1 and E_2 each independently is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group;

W represents CH, C= or a nitrogen atom; with the provisos that:

when W represents CH, then m is 0 or 1 and B represents a carbonyl group, a sulfonyl group, an alkylene group, an alkenylene group, a group $-C(OH)R_2-$ in which R_2 represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, a group $-CHR_3-$ in which R_3 represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted cyclic or acyclic acetal group;

when W represents C=, then m is 1 and B is a group:



in which the double bond is coupled with W and R_4 represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group; and

when W represents a nitrogen atom, then m is 0 or 1 and B is a carbonyl group, a sulfonyl group, an alkylene group, an alkenylene group or a group $-CHR_5-$ in which R_5 represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; and

D represents a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon group or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group; and

ℓ is 0 or 1;

which process comprises:

reacting a compound of formula (VI) with a compound of formula (II),

wherein:

the compound of formula (VI) is:

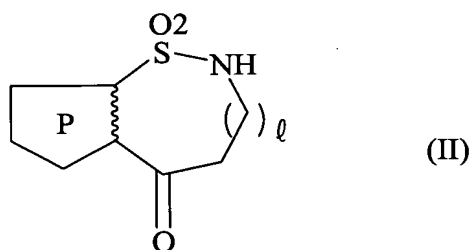


where

X is an eliminative group;

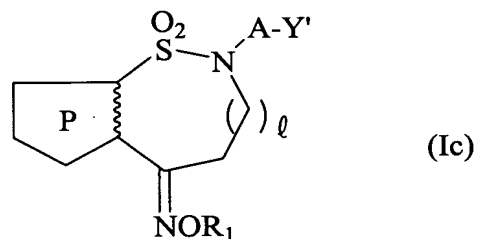
A and Y are defined above; and

wherein the compound of formula (II) is:



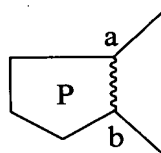
wherein the ring P and ℓ are defined above.

29. (New) A process for preparing a compound of formula (Ic):

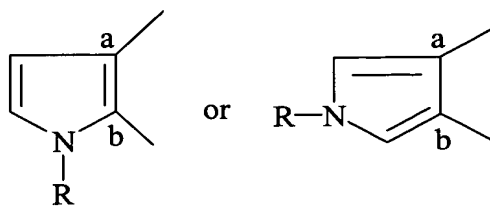


wherein

the ring P is:



and is a pyrrole ring represented by the following structure:

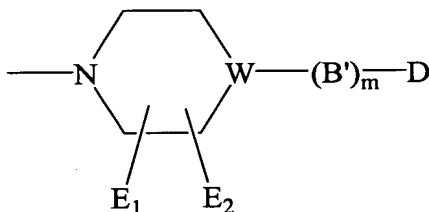


in which R is an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkyl-alkyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group;

R_1 is a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group;

A is a substituted or unsubstituted alkylene group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenylene group or a substituted or unsubstituted alkynylene group;

Y' represents a group



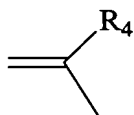
in which

E_1 and E_2 each independently is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group;

W represents CH, C= or a nitrogen atom; with the provisos that:

when W represents CH, then m is 0 or 1 and B' represents a sulfonyl group, an alkylene group, an alkenylene group, a group $-C(OH)R_2-$ in which R_2 represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, a group $-CHR_3-$ in which R_3 represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted cyclic or acyclic acetal group;

when W represents C=, then m is 1 and B' is a group:



in which the double bond is coupled with W and R_4 represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group; and

when W represents a nitrogen atom, then m is 0 or 1 and B' is a carbonyl group, a sulfonyl group, an alkylene group, an alkenylene group or a group $-CHR_5-$ in which R_5 represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; and

D represents a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon group or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group; and

ℓ is 0 or 1;

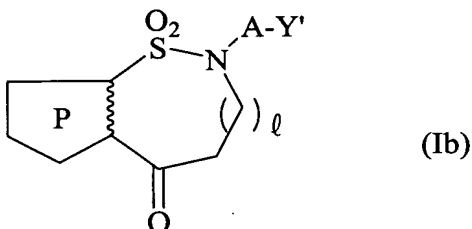
which process comprises:

reacting a compound of formula (VII) with a compound of formula (Ib),

wherein the compound of formula (VII) is:

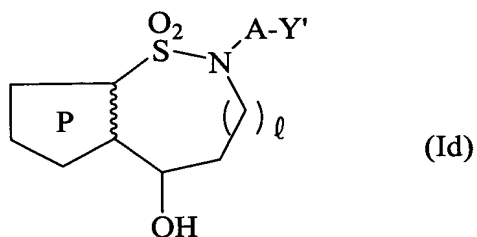


wherein R_1 is defined above; and the compound of formula (Ib) is:



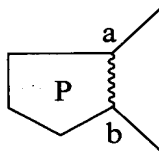
wherein the ring P, A, Y' and ℓ are defined above.

30. (New) A process for preparing a compound of formula (Id):

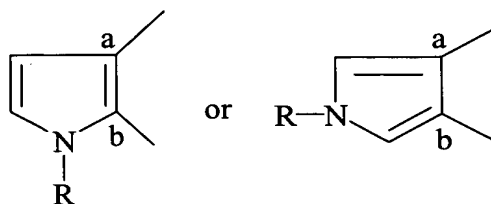


wherein

the ring P is:



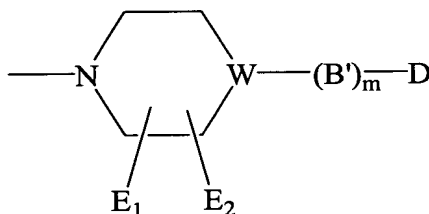
and is a pyrrole ring represented by the following structure:



in which R is an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkyl-alkyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group;

A is a substituted or unsubstituted alkylene group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenylene group or a substituted or unsubstituted alkynylene group;

Y' represents a group



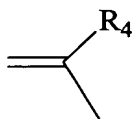
in which

E_1 and E_2 each independently is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group;

W represents CH, C= or a nitrogen atom; with the provisos that:

when W represents CH, then m is 0 or 1 and B' represents a sulfonyl group, an alkylene group, an alkenylene group, a group $-C(OH)R_2-$ in which R_2 represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, a group $-CHR_3-$ in which R_3 represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted cyclic or acyclic acetal group;

when W represents C=, then m is 1 and B' is a group:



in which the double bond is coupled with W and R₄ represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group; and

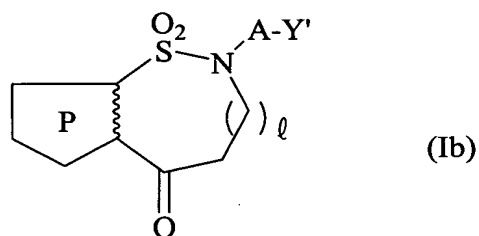
when W represents a nitrogen atom, then m is 0 or 1 and B' is a carbonyl group, a sulfonyl group, an alkylene group, an alkenylene group or a group -CHR₅- in which R₅ represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; and

D represents a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon group or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group; and

ℓ is 0 or 1;

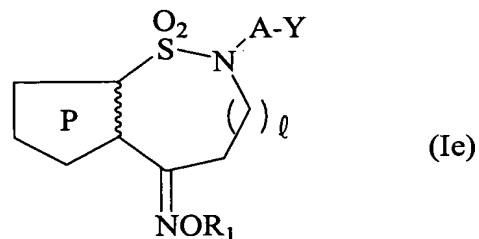
which process comprises:

reducing a compound of formula (Ib):



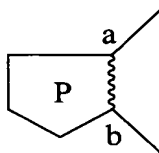
wherein the ring P, A, Y' and ℓ are defined above.

31 (New): A process for preparing a compound of formula (Ie):

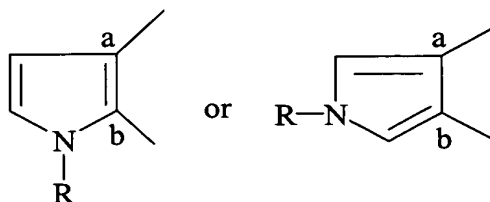


wherein

the ring P is:



and is a pyrrole ring represented by the following structure:

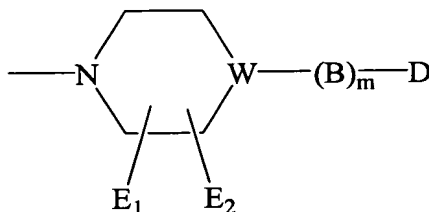


in which R is an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkyl-alkyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group;

R₁ is a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group;

A is a substituted or unsubstituted alkylene group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenylene group or a substituted or unsubstituted alkynylene group;

Y is a group having the following formula:



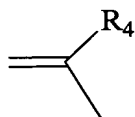
in which

E₁ and E₂ each independently is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group;

W represents CH, C= or a nitrogen atom; with the provisos that:

when W represents CH, then m is 0 or 1 and B represents a carbonyl group, a sulfonyl group, an alkylene group, an alkenylene group, a group -C(OH)R₂- in which R₂ represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, a group -CHR₃- in which R₃ represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted cyclic or acyclic acetal group;

when W represents C=, then m is 1 and B is a group:



in which the double bond is coupled with W and R_4 represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group; and

when W represents a nitrogen atom, then m is 0 or 1 and B is a carbonyl group, a sulfonyl group, an alkylene group, an alkenylene group or a group $-CHR_5-$ in which R_5 represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; and

D represents a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon group or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group; and

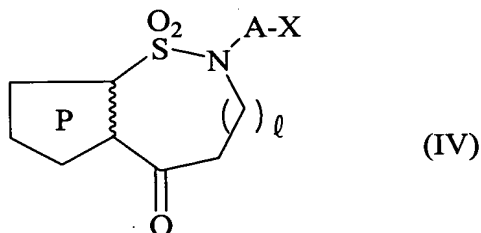
ℓ is 0 or 1;

which process comprises:

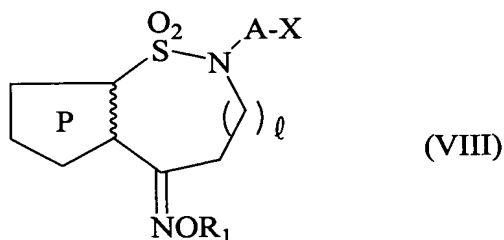
reacting a compound of formula (VII):



wherein R_1 is defined above, with a compound of formula (IV):



wherein X is an eliminative group, and the ring P, A and ℓ are defined above, thereby obtaining a compound represented by the following formula (VIII):



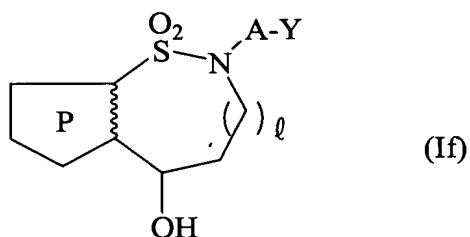
wherein the ring P, R_1 , A, X and ℓ are defined above; and then

reacting the compound of formula (VIII) with a nitrogen-containing compound of formula (V):



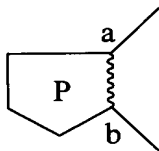
wherein Y is defined above.

32 (New) A process for preparing a compound of formula (If):

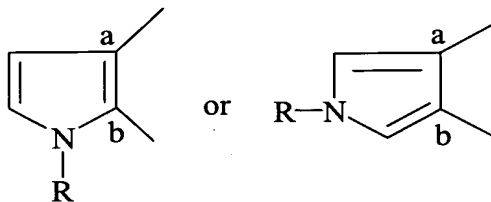


wherein

the ring P is:



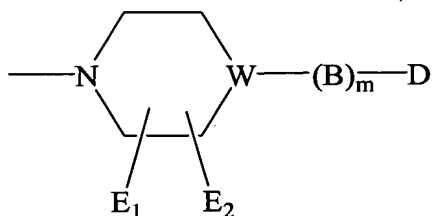
and is a pyrrole ring represented by the following structure:



in which R is an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkyl-alkyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group;

A is a substituted or unsubstituted alkylene group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenylene group or a substituted or unsubstituted alkynylene group;

Y is a group having the following formula:



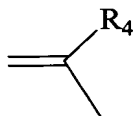
in which

E_1 and E_2 each independently is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group;

W represents CH, C= or a nitrogen atom; with the provisos that:

when W represents CH, then m is 0 or 1 and B represents a carbonyl group, a sulfonyl group, an alkylene group, an alkenylene group, a group $\text{-C(OH)R}_2\text{-}$ in which R_2 represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, a group $\text{-CHR}_3\text{-}$ in which R_3 represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted cyclic or acyclic acetal group;

when W represents C=, then m is 1 and B is a group:



in which the double bond is coupled with W and R_4 represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group; and

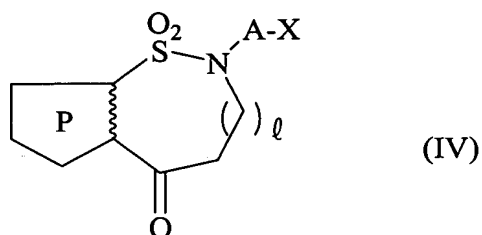
when W represents a nitrogen atom, then m is 0 or 1 and B is a carbonyl group, a sulfonyl group, an alkylene group, an alkenylene group or a group $\text{-CHR}_5\text{-}$ in which R_5 represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; and

D represents a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon group or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group; and

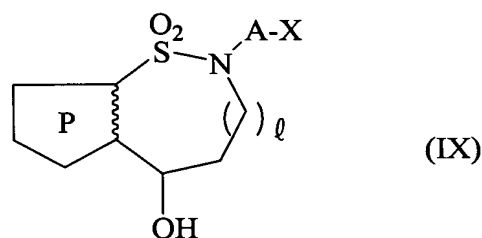
ℓ is 0 or 1;

which process comprises:

reducing a compound of formula (IV):



wherein X is an eliminative group, and the ring P, A and ℓ are defined above, thereby obtaining a compound of formula (IX):

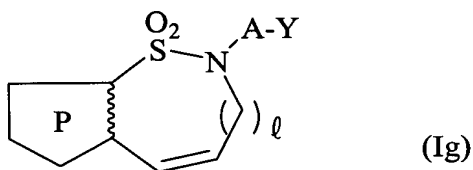


wherein the ring P, A, X and ℓ are defined above; and then reacting the compound of formula (IX) with a nitrogen-containing compound represented by the following formula (V):

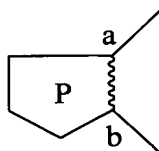


wherein Y is defined above.

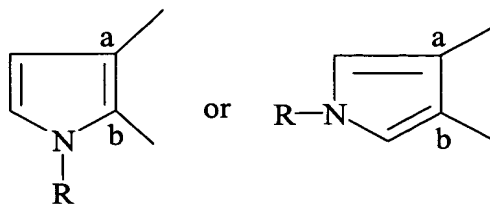
33. (New) A process for preparing a compound of formula (Ig):



wherein
 the ring P is:



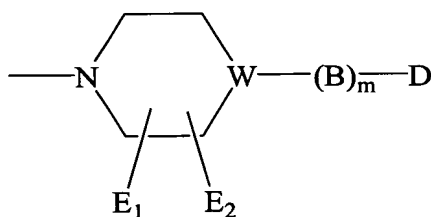
and is a pyrrole ring represented by the following structure:



in which R is an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkyl-alkyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group;

A is a substituted or unsubstituted alkylene group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenylene group or a substituted or unsubstituted alkynylene group;

Y is a group having the following formula:



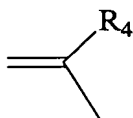
in which

E_1 and E_2 each independently is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group;

W represents CH, C= or a nitrogen atom; with the provisos that:

when W represents CH, then m is 0 or 1 and B represents a carbonyl group, a sulfonyl group, an alkylene group, an alkenylene group, a group $-C(OH)R_2-$ in which R_2 represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, a group $-CHR_3-$ in which R_3 represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted cyclic or acyclic acetal group;

when W represents C=, then m is 1 and B is a group:



in which the double bond is coupled with W and R_4 represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group; and

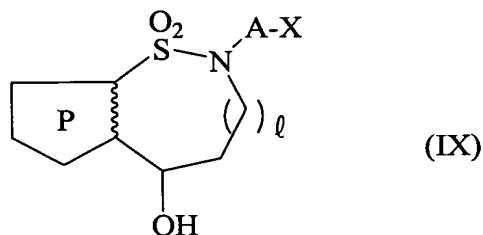
when W represents a nitrogen atom, then m is 0 or 1 and B is a carbonyl group, a sulfonyl group, an alkylene group, an alkenylene group or a group $-\text{CHR}_5-$ in which R_5 represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; and

D represents a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon group or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group; and

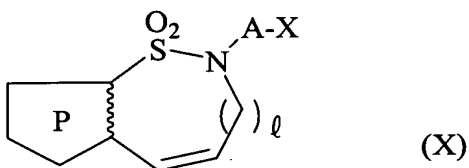
ℓ is 0 or 1;

which process comprises:

subjecting to a dehydration treatment a compound of formula (IX):



wherein the ring P, A, and ℓ are defined above, and X is an eliminative group, thereby obtaining a compound of formula (X):

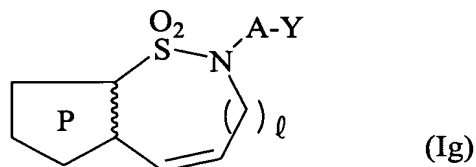


wherein the ring P, A, X and ℓ have the same meanings as defined above; and then reacting the compound of formula (X) with a nitrogen-containing compound of formula (V):



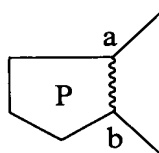
wherein Y is defined above.

34. (New) A process for the preparation of a pyrrolesulfonamide derivative represented by the following formula (Ig):

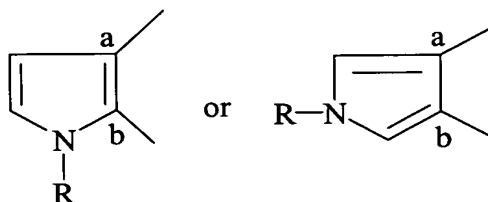


wherein

the ring P is:



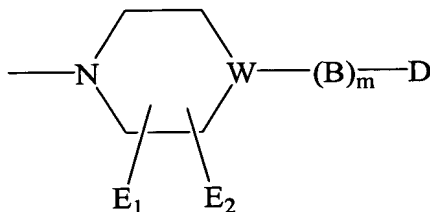
and is a pyrrole ring represented by the following structure:



in which R is an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkyl-alkyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group;

A is a substituted or unsubstituted alkylene group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenylene group or a substituted or unsubstituted alkynylene group;

Y is a group having the following formula:



in which

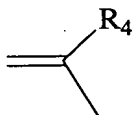
E₁ and E₂ each independently is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group;

W represents CH, C= or a nitrogen atom; with the provisos that:

when W represents CH, then m is 0 or 1 and B represents a carbonyl group, a sulfonyl group, an alkylene group, an alkenylene group, a group -C(OH)R₂- in which R₂ represents a

substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, a group $-\text{CHR}_3-$ in which R_3 represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted cyclic or acyclic acetal group;

when W represents $\text{C}=\text{}$, then m is 1 and B is a group:



in which the double bond is coupled with W and R_4 represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group; and

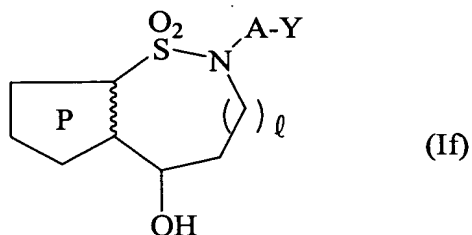
when W represents a nitrogen atom, then m is 0 or 1 and B is a carbonyl group, a sulfonyl group, an alkylene group, an alkenylene group or a group $-\text{CHR}_5-$ in which R_5 represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; and

D represents a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon group or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group; and

ℓ is 0 or 1;

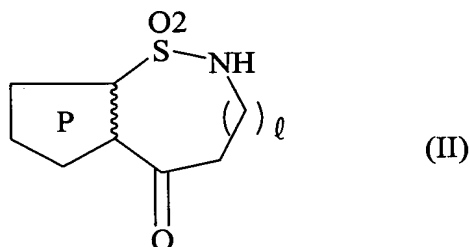
which process comprises:

subjecting a compound of formula (If):



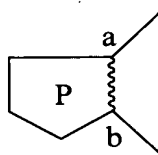
wherein the ring P, A, Y and ℓ are defined above, to a dehydration treatment.

35. (New) A compound represented by the following formula (II):

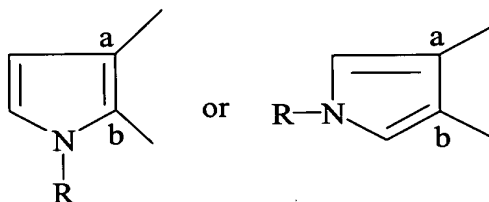


wherein

the ring P is:



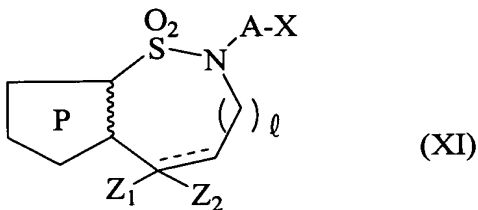
and is a pyrrole ring represented by the following structure:



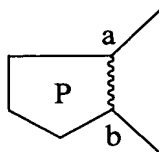
in which R is an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkyl-alkyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group; and

l is 0 or 1.

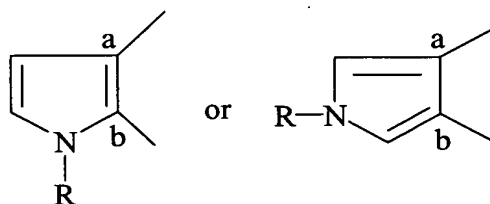
36. (New) A compound of formula (XI):



the ring P is:



and is a pyrrole ring represented by the following structure:



in which R is an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkyl-alkyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group;

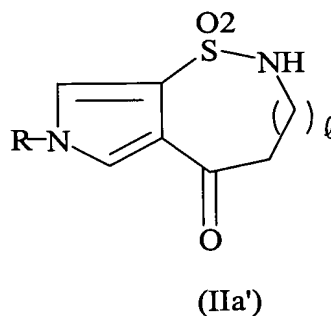
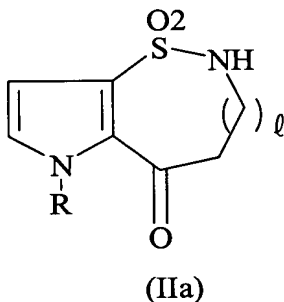
Z_1 is a hydrogen atom and Z_2 is not present when the bond represented by the dashed line is present, and Z_1 is hydrogen and Z_2 is hydroxyl when the bond represented by the dashed line is not present or Z_1 and Z_2 together to represent an oxygen atom or a group NOR_1 , where R_1 is a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group;

A is a substituted or unsubstituted alkylene group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenylene group or a substituted or unsubstituted alkynylene group;

X is an eliminative group; and

ℓ is 0 or 1.

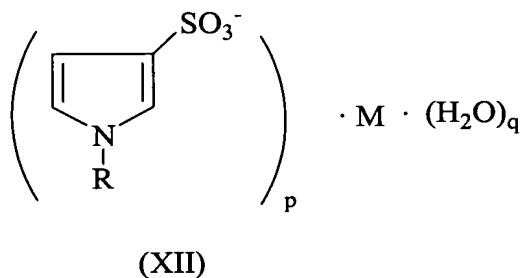
37. (New) A process for preparing a compound of formula (IIa) or (IIa'):



wherein R represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkyl-alkyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group and ℓ is 0 or 1;

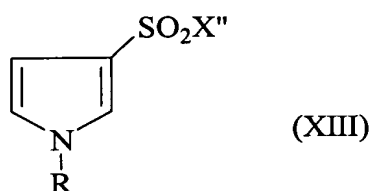
which process comprises:

converting a 1-substituted-pyrrole-3-sulfonic acid or a salt thereof of formula (XII):



wherein M represents a hydrogen ion, an alkali metal ion, an alkaline earth metal ion or a quaternary ammonium ion, p is 1 when M is a hydrogen ion, an alkali metal ion or a quaternary ammonium ion or p is 2 when M is an alkaline earth metal ion, q is 0 or 1, and R has the same meaning as defined above,

into a compound represented by formula (XIII):



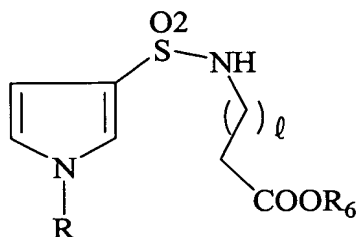
wherein X'' is a chlorine atom or a bromine atom;

thus causing glycine or β -alnine or a derivative thereof of formula (XIV):



wherein R₆ represents a hydrogen atom or a carboxyl-protecting group,

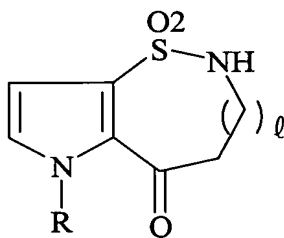
to act, thereby obtaining a compound of formula (XV):



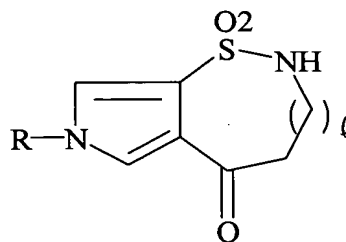
(XV)

wherein R, R₆ and *l* are defined above; and then subjecting said compound to ring closure.

38. (New) A process for preparing a compound of formula (IIa) or (IIa'):



(IIa)



(IIa')

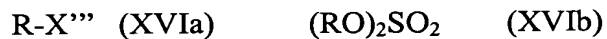
wherein

R represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkyl-alkyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group and

l is 0 or 1;

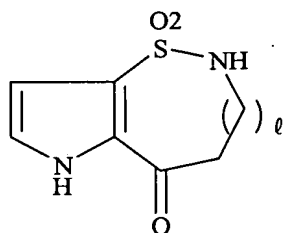
which process comprises:

reacting a compound of formula (XVIa) or (XVIb):

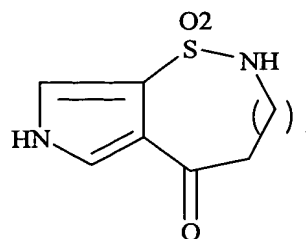


wherein X''' is an eliminative group and R is defined above,

with a compound of formula (IIb) or (IIb'):



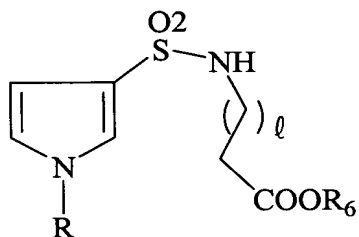
(IIb)



(IIb')

wherein ℓ is defined above.

39. (New) A compound of formula (XV):



(XV)

R represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkyl-alkyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group;

R_6 represents a hydrogen atom or a carboxyl-protecting group; and

ℓ is 0 or 1.